

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/843,211

Examiner

Gregory J. Strimbu

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Art Unit

3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 1/27/05 and the tele. int. of 2/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 37-51.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 9/4/02+3/5/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 2/10/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Helen M. Limoncelli on February 10, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title:

changed the title to: --COUPLING DEVICE FOR COUPLING INSTRUMENT ORGANIZERS WITH MOVABLE STABILIZING POSTS TOGETHER--

In the abstract:

line 3, deleted "first"

line 5, deleted "first"

line 6, inserted --the-- following "support"

line 8, deleted "base"

line 9, changed "may be" to --together--

line 10, deleted "provided" and changed "an" to --the--

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In the specification:

page 1,

line 7, inserted --, now U.S. Patent No. 6,367,637,-- following "2000"

In the claims:

claim 37,

line 2, inserted --together-- following "organizers"

line 13, changed "at least a portion" to --portions--

claim 38,

line 3, deleted "only"

line 5, changed "supports" to --is able to support--

claim 39,

line 14, deleted "for each instrument organizer"

claim 42,

line 3, changed "adjoining" to --the--

line 4, deleted "at least one of the"

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claim 43,

line 3, deleted "in cross section"

line 4, deleted "at least one" and changed "post" to --posts--

line 5, deleted the first occurrence of "each of"

claim 44,

line 3, inserted --together-- following the first occurrence of "organizers"

line 7, changed "said" to --the--

line 12, deleted "of the instrument organizer"

line 14, deleted "of the instrument organizer, respectively,"

line 15, deleted "of the instrument organ--"

line 16, deleted "izer"

line 17, changed "an organized and" to --a generally-- and changed "organizer" to --base--

line 19, inserted --for each instrument organizer-- following "wherein"

line 20, changed "includes" to --comprises--

claim 46,

line 3, deleted "in cross section"

line 4, changed "said" to --the--

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claim 51,

line 2, deleted the first occurrence of "a", and changed "strip" to --strips each--

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Strimbu whose telephone number is 703-305-3979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703-308-2486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gregory J. Strimbu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634
February 10, 2005